

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY - C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

PARK NAME, STATE: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Maryland

STRUCTURE NAME(S): Thomas Brent Property
Other names: (Jacob S. Widmeyer Property)

LOCATION Street Address: Canal Road, mile 125.00 **Town/City:** Hancock
County: Washington

CATEGORY: District___ Building(s)___ Structure___ Site X Object___

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 81 **IDLCS:** 47505-06, 49958, 49960, 49969-71, 49974-

INVENTORY #: WA-VI-004

SIGNIFICANCE National___ State & Regional___ Local X
NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: A X B___ C___ D___

Thomas Brent settled one of the first land grants in the Hancock area, "Brent's Chance," sometime after the land was surveyed in 1793. Brent operated a general store in Hancock called Brent & Blackwell, and he probably also farmed the property. The Brent's sold the property to Jacob S. Widmeyer in 1869. The Brent-Widmeyer house could be seen from the canal. Since the property was adjacent to the canal, the Brent-Widmeyer property is part of the historic scene of the canal. The property is also an example of one of the first settlements in the Hancock area.

Continuation Sheet? N

DESCRIPTION

The Brent-Widmeyer property consists of the ruins of the house and the family cemetery. The house was constructed in at least two sections. The Brent Family acquired the property in 1793. They probably constructed the oldest part of the house near that date. It was a two story brick structure with two rooms on each floor and a large central fireplace. There was no access between the two rooms on the first floor except through the exterior. They were constructed as two separate houses. The addition, constructed at an unknown date, was adjacent to the original structure, but there was no access between the two. It was a frame I-House that used brick nogging and was then sided with weatherboard. The house burned down in the early 1970s. All that is remaining of the house are two chimneys, one stone and one brick, that were located at the gable ends of the addition; the outline of a cellar near the stone chimney; and materials from the house in the cellar. The family cemetery is located approximately 300 yards above the house near Fort Tonoloway Park. The graves date from 1823 to 1913. There are also many potential archaeological sites in the area. The current survey includes 45 individual grave stones present in the area.

Continuation Sheet? N

Form Prepared by: Ann Deines/Historian; National Park Service/National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive SW; Washington, DC; 20242 (202) 205-8490

Date: December 22, 1993

National Park Service, NCR, Recommendation:

Individually Eligible X Contributes to C&O Canal National Historic District___
Contributes to Antietam Iron Furnace Historic District___ Ineligible___

State Historic Preservation Officer:

Concur X Do Not Concur___

(See "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Four Locks District, List of Eligible Structures" for concurrence signature.)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-VI-004
Map 17
Parcel 45
District 5
MAGI # 2213475904

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Brent House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Canal Road

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Hancock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☐ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: Ruins

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Schalone Benedictus

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route # 1

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 518

Folio #: 234

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☒ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

During the early 1970's the Brent House burned and all that remained when it was photographed in 1973 were the walls of one two story two bay section and two chimneys, one stone and one brick.

The house was a timber frame structure, possibly built in two parts. Brick infill or nogging was used and it was sided with weatherboarding. Where window frames remained they were wide and massive and trimmed with ovolo molding.

Standing by itself at one end was a large exterior stone chimney. It was a massive structure which had a fireplace at each of the main stories and perhaps one in the cellar. At the opposite end of the house was an exterior chimney of brick.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-VI-004

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brent House is locally reputed to be of the 18th century and some evidence among the rubble does support that tradition. Timber framing is unusual as a house construction form in Washington County, log being the generally preferred method of building with wood.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 727.75 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

690 000 FEET
(MD.)

4399

42'30"

4398

4397

5363 III NE
(BELLEGROVE)

Hancock
Quad

600-11-447





WA-II-004
N.

Brent House

Canal Road
Hancock Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON C.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-VI-004

N. W.

Brent House

Canal Road

Hancock Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-VI-004

CHINNEY DETAIL

N.E

Aug. 1973

Brent House

**Canal Road
Nancock Vicinity**

**PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CC
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY**